

I am an amateur radio operator and a volunteer examiner for the ARRL VEC. I do not agree with the elimination of morse code as a requirement for obtaining a higher class amateur radio license. Many times, code is the most reliable way to get a message through. I have often worked stations on code that I was not able to work using voice. I think it is very important to maintain a group of amateur radio operators who can send and receive code in case of an emergency.

Here is my suggestion. In addition to their present privileges, the Technician class license should be given HF privileges but only for morse code. Allow them to use the old novice subbands. This will encourage them to learn the code for their general class license.

To me this has been the biggest problem with motivating people to upgrade to the general class. They aren't able to use code with the technician license so they don't bother to practice. Live on-air contacts are exciting and would be the best practice for people wanting to upgrade.